

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~substances bearing carbodiimide~~ a substance including a carbodiimide group from ~~isocyanates~~ an isocyanate, ~~comprising using employing at least one of water, and/or a water-containing substance or—~~ and a water-releasing substance ~~substance, and/or amines and/or ureas as catalysts~~ a catalyst.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~substances bearing carbodiimide~~ a substance including a carbodiimide group from ~~isocyanates~~ a isocyanate, ~~comprising~~ obtained by:

reacting a mixture of:

A) \_\_\_ at least one starting compound having at least one isocyanate group;

B) \_\_\_ at least one catalyst comprising at least one of water, a water-containing substance and a water-releasing substance in an amount of from 0.01 to 30% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B), ~~selected from~~

—1. ~~water,~~

—2. ~~water containing and/or water-releasing substances,~~

—3. ~~primary and/or secondary amines,~~

—4. ~~ureas having the structure  $R^1-NH-CO-NR^3R^3$ , where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each identical or different radicals having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms or H;~~ and

C) \_\_\_ optionally one or more cocatalysts ~~from the group of~~ comprising a metal-containing substance ~~substance~~ in an amount of from 0.00001 to 1% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B);

~~wherein, reacting the mixture comprises~~ by holding the mixture of A), B) and, ~~where~~  
~~present, optionally C)~~ at a temperature of from 120 to 300°C and ~~at pressures a pressure of~~  
between 1 and 25 bar for from 5 minutes to 12 hours.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the  
component A) ~~used is~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of  
cyclohexyl isocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI),  
2-methylpentane diisocyanate (MPDI), 2,2,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate/2,4,4-  
trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate (TMDI), norbornane diisocyanate (NBDI),  
methylenediphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), diisocyanatomethylbenzene, ~~especially the 2,4- and~~  
~~the 2,6-isomers, and technical grade mixtures of both isomers~~ (TDI), tetramethylxylene  
diisocyanate (TMXDI) and dicyclohexylmethyl diisocyanate (H12MDI).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 3, wherein the component A)  
comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of IPDI, HDI ~~and/or and~~  
H12MDI ~~are used~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the  
~~isocyanates used are~~ component A) comprises at least one member selected from the group  
consisting of isocyanurates, uretdiones, allophanates ~~and/or and~~ biurets.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the  
component B2) ~~used~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of  
inorganic compounds having water of crystallization, molecular sieves, ion exchangers, and  
hydrous polymer gels, ~~for example superabsorbents~~.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein ~~co~~catalysts the cocatalyst C) ~~based on~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin, zinc and/or bismuth are used.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 9, wherein the cocatalyst C) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin(II) chloride, dibutyltin dilaurate, zinc octoate, zinc acetylacetonate and bismuth neodecanoate ~~are used alone or in mixtures.~~